

his many accolades, he has been honored with the Connecticut Longevity Service Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, and the National Guard Bureau's Eagle Award—the most prestigious award issued by the National Guard Bureau. These signs of recognition are testament to a prominent and honorable career.

His commitment and dedication to service culminated in his appointment as Adjunct General of the Connecticut National Guard, serving as the ranking member of the Governor's Military Staff and commissioner of the State Military Department since 1992. General Gay has been an invaluable resource to me in my capacity as a Member of Congress. His professionalism and unparalleled skill in his field have helped to address the concerns of my constituents quickly and effectively. I appreciate all that he has been able to provide for Connecticut's Third Congressional District.

In addition to his illustrious military career General Gay has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to his community. As well as being a member of several local organizations, General Gay chairs the State Management Board of the Community Learning and Information Network (CLIN), a pioneer project in distance learning education technology. He has also served as President of the Nutmeg Games, a state-wide multi-sport festival for Connecticut amateur athletes. His innumerable contributions to the community and the State of Connecticut will not be forgotten.

I am honored to stand today to join his wife, Nancy, children, David, Jennifer, and Steven, and the many other voices of family and friends in congratulating General Gay on his retirement. His service to our country and community will not be forgotten and we wish him much health and happiness in the coming years.

HONORING THE BROOKLYN  
SCHOOL SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leaders and members of the School Settlement Association for ninety-eight years of service to the Brooklyn community. The work they have done over the years has had an impact on thousands and thousands of lives. They have seen the critical needs that exist in our communities and addressed them. They have stepped in and filled gaps where children and older people in our communities are at risk.

Unlike so many others who have tried and failed, the School Settlement Association here in Brooklyn has succeeded. As the only remaining School Settlement Association in Brooklyn, their longevity is a testament to the strength of their vision, the importance of their mission, and the quality of their teachers, service providers and leaders.

Not only have they remained strong for these ninety-eight years, but they have grown and expanded. Their initial objective of helping

strengthen the attendance and performance of young students in school has broadened. Now, they successfully work to enhance children's health and nutritional needs. They have implemented summer and after-school programs, literacy programs, as well as college and career seminars that help students prepare for a successful future.

In addition to this, their outreach now includes the needs of many of our community's older adults. Many of our seniors who might otherwise go without the proper medical assistance and healthcare services can safely rely on the School Settlement Home Attendant Service Corporation and home Health Care Service.

Finally, as the scope of their mission has expanded, so have the number of neighborhoods in which they operate. Originally founded in Ridgewood, they now reach out to Williamsburg, Greenpoint and other areas around Brooklyn. The large area they now help is reflective of the deep concern they have shown for everyone in our neighborhoods.

As we look to the future, and they prepare to celebrate their 100th anniversary, on behalf of the 12th Congressional District, I want to thank them for all they have done. They have helped keep the fabric of our communities strong, and our future bright. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the School Settlement Association. May their next 100 years be better than the last.

THE WHITE BEAR LAKE'S CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a local middle school's achievement at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals and the achievement of other Minnesota schools at this special competition in Knoxville, TN.

Odyssey of the Mind is an activity designed to engage children's minds and helps them develop their creativity. Through exercises that require impromptu and creative responses, the team works together to create a solution. White Bear Lake's Central Middle School received one of five special awards during this unique competition. The team was recognized for its outstanding creativity in its solution to the "Environmental Challenge" Division II category. The team competed with more than 800 teams representing 28 countries. Success against tough competition such as this is truly an outstanding achievement. Its encouraging as an educator and member of Congress to see the emphasis upon academic achievement and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an article from the May 31, 1999 Star Tribune detailing the accomplishments of White Bear Lake's Central Middle Schools Odyssey of the Mind team as well as the achievements and recognition accorded additional Minnesota schools.

WHITE BEAR GETS A TOP ODYSSEY AWARD

CENTRAL MIDDLE HONORED FOR CREATIVITY;  
ANOKA HIGH AMONG TOP STATE FINISHERS

(By Terry Collins)

White Bear Lake's Central Middle School was one of five teams internationally to receive a special award during this weekend's 20th Annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition in Knoxville, Tenn.

The students received the "Ranata Fusca" award for outstanding creativity for the solution of a problem in the "Environmental Challenge" Division II category.

The students were nominated by a panel judging their problem.

"It's outstanding," said Karen Karbo, director of the Minnesota state Odyssey of the Mind. "They took a great risk that involved great skill. It's quite an award. I couldn't be more proud."

Anoka High School had one of the highest finishes of any Minnesota school. Students placed second in the "Radiometric Structure" Division III problem-solving category.

"They were exceptional," Karbo said. "To finish that high out of several hundred teams in their division is remarkable."

They were among about 5,500 students from the United States and 28 countries who participated, all winners of their local or regional Odyssey competitions.

More than 800 student teams tested their wits in several categories, including devising a species-survival plan, putting a contemporary spin on Shakespeare and calculating how much weight a self-built balsa-wood structure can hold.

The finals started Thursday and concluded Saturday.

Other Twin Cities-area finalists included: Cedar Ridge Elementary, Eden Prairie: fourth place, "Customer Service," Div. L.

Inver Grove Heights Middle, Inver Grove Heights: ninth place, "Customer Service," Div. II.

Hopkins Community Education Program Gold, Hopkins: 11th place, "Over the Mountain," Div. II; 13th place, "O, My Faire Shakespeare," Div. III.

St. Louis Park School District's Gifted/Talented Program, St. Louis Park: 14th place, "Radiometric Structure," Div. L.

Greenleaf Elementary, Apple Valley: 19th place, "Environmental Challenge," Div. I.

Coon Rapids High, Coon Rapids: 23rd place, "Over the Mountain," Div. III.

Other Minnesota finalists included:

Fergus Falls Middle, Fergus Falls, Minn.: Third place, "Environmental Challenge," Div. III.

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minn./St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.: Fourth place, "Radiometric Structure," Div. IV; 14th place "O, My Faire Shakespeare," Div. IV.

Hermantown Middle, Hermantown, Minn.: 12th place, "O, My Faire Shakespeare," Div. II.

Queen of Peace Middle, Cloquet, Minn.: 16th place, "Radiometric Structure," Div. I.

Robert Asp School, Moorhead, Minn.: 24th place, "O, My Faire Shakespeare," Div. I.

Karbo said Minnesota has the ninth-largest Odyssey student participation in the world. More than 1,000 students participated this year in 10 regional Odyssey competitions throughout the state.

"They truly represent the finest students we have in this state," Karbo said. "To even get to this level of competition is extraordinary."